

DARE-
DEVIL

12¢
IND.

53
JUNE



HERE COMES...

DAREDEVIL

THE MAN WHO FEAR!

...IN THE
BEGINNING!



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP





IT IS *NIGHT*...THE
FINAL SNOWFALL
OF A WANING WINTER
RESTS ON MOON-
DRENCHED ROOFTOPS
...AND AMIDST THE
SCENE SITS A
DYNAMIC CRIMSON
FORM...BROODING....

NOT MUCH
TIME
LEFT...TILL
DAWN!

AND
I STILL
HAVEN'T
SOLVED MY
DILEMMA...

HOW TO
PRESERVE
MY SECRET
IDENTITY
AS MATT
MURDOCK...

WHEN IT'S
KNOWN TO
THE MADMAN
I SET
FREE...

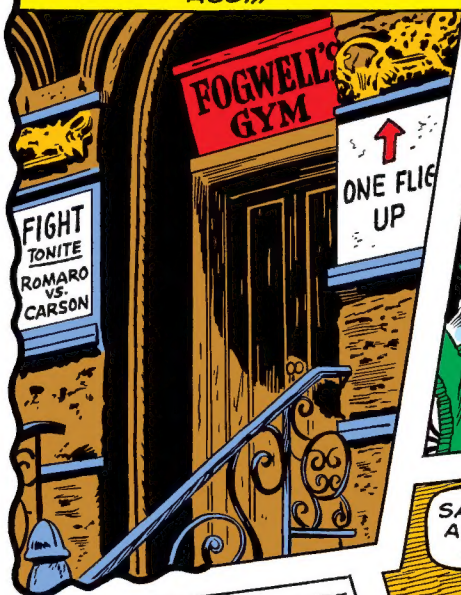
...THE
MURDERER,
STARR
SAXON!

CAN'T HELP
FEELING
THAT THE
ANSWER
IS ROOTED
IN THE
PAST,
SOMEHOW...

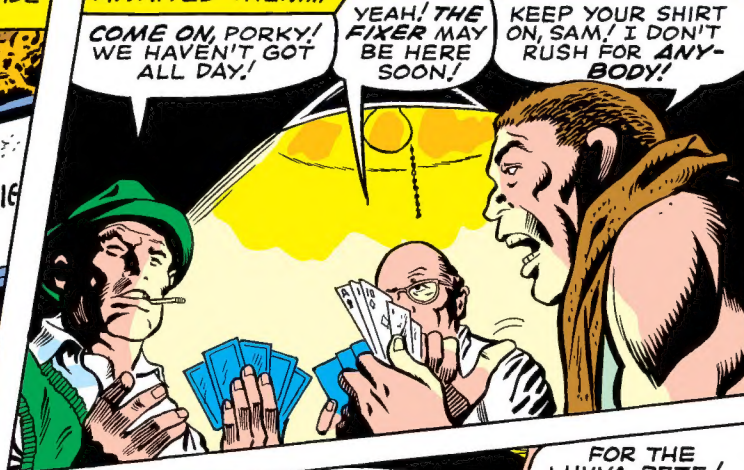
PERHAPS
BOUND UP
WITH THE
VERY ORIGIN
OF THE
MAN CALLED...
DAREDEVIL!

A RHAPSODIC
RE-TELLING BY:
STAN LEE and **GENE COLAN**
WRITER ARTIST
NEW DIALOGUE BY:
ROY THOMAS
INKING: **GEORGE KLEIN** LETTERING: **ARTIE SIMEK**

"...IT WAS ON NEW YORK'S LOWER WEST SIDE THAT THE STORY OF DAREDEVIL BEGAN...ON A WIND-SWEPT MORNING...HALF A DECADE AGO..."



"IN A DINGY ROOM ABOVE FOGWELL'S GYM, SEVERAL MEN SAT PLAYING A GAME OF POKER... LITTLE DREAMING OF THE SHOCK WHICH AWAITED THEM..."



COME ON, PORKY! WE HAVEN'T GOT ALL DAY!

YEAH! THE FIXER MAY BE HERE SOON!

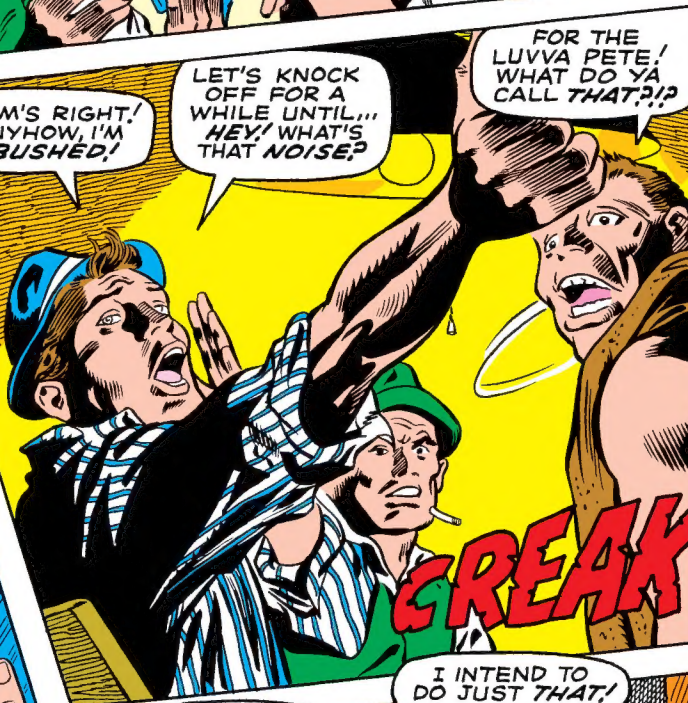
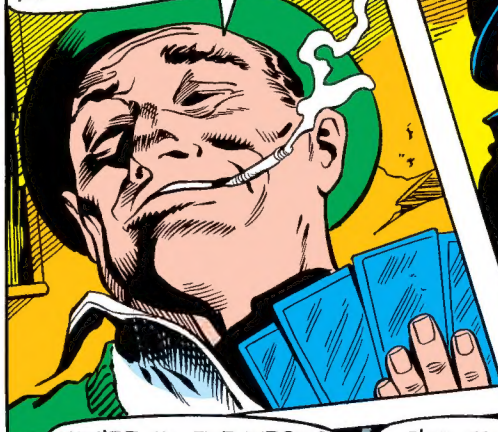
KEEP YOUR SHIRT ON, SAM! I DON'T RUSH FOR ANYBODY!

SAM'S RIGHT! ANYHOW, I'M BUSHED!

LET'S KNOCK OFF FOR A WHILE UNTIL... HEY! WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

FOR THE LUVVA PETE! WHAT DO YA CALL THAT?!

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE KIDDIN'? YOU KNOW WHEN THE FIXER SNAPS HIS FINGERS, WE ALL HOP, IF WE WANNA STAY HEALTHY!



I INTEND TO DO JUST THAT!

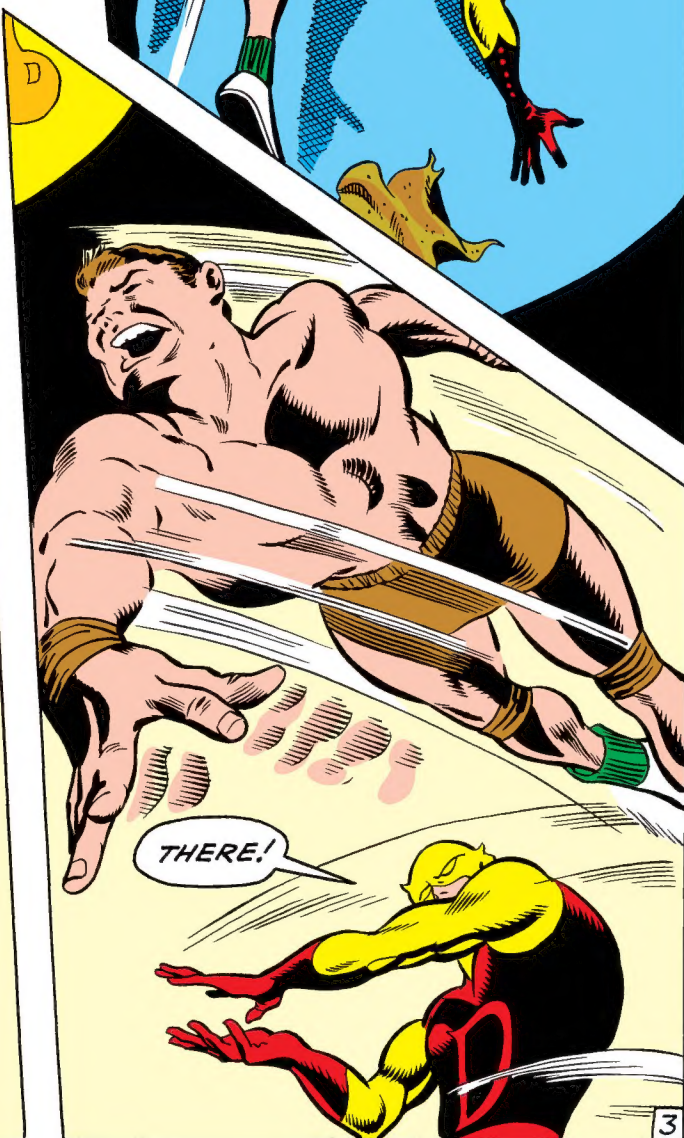
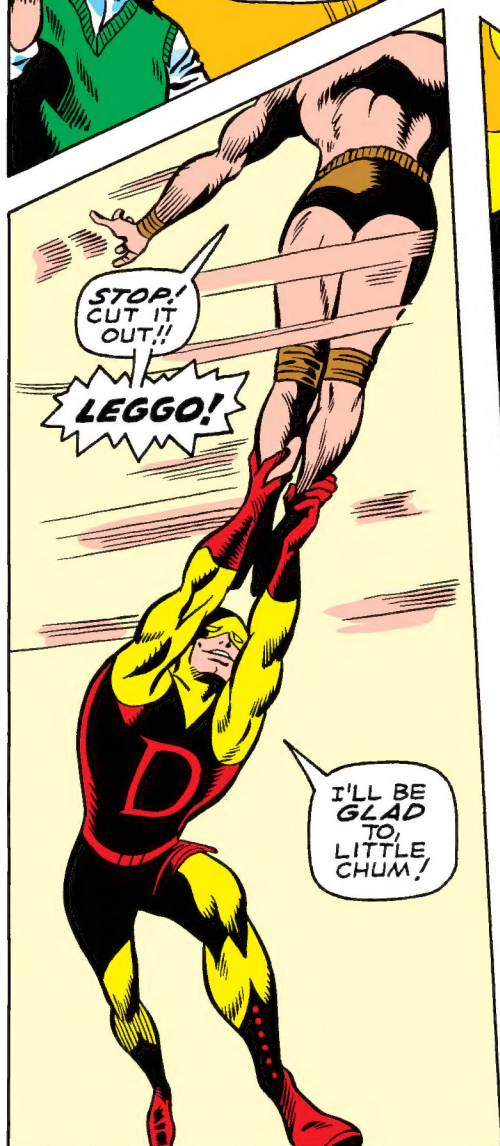
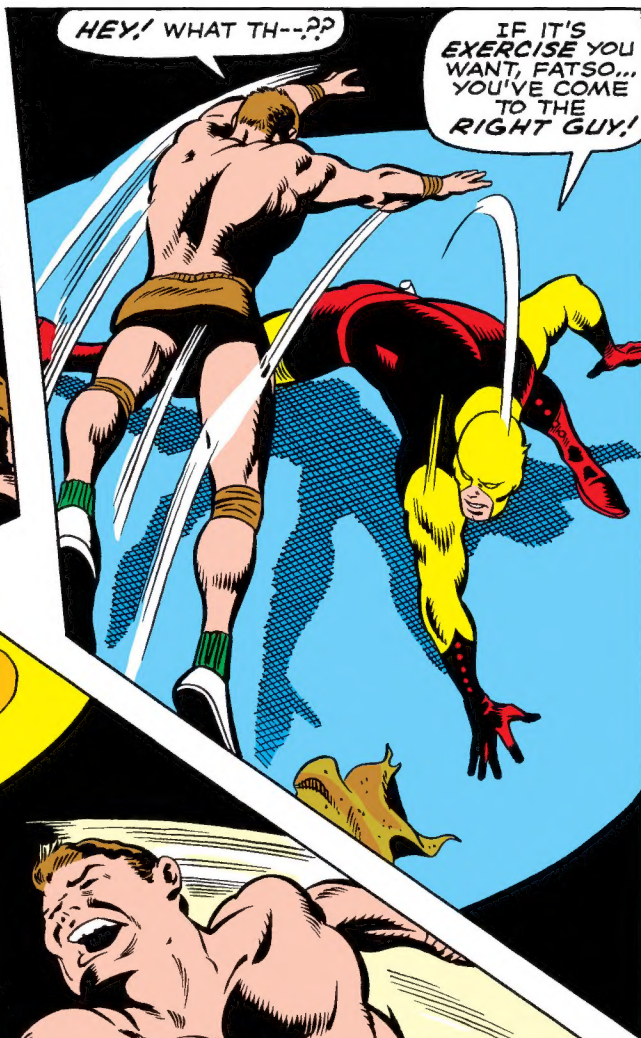
YOU'RE IN THE WRONG PLACE, BUSTER! WE DON'T USE COSTUMED WRESTLERS HERE!

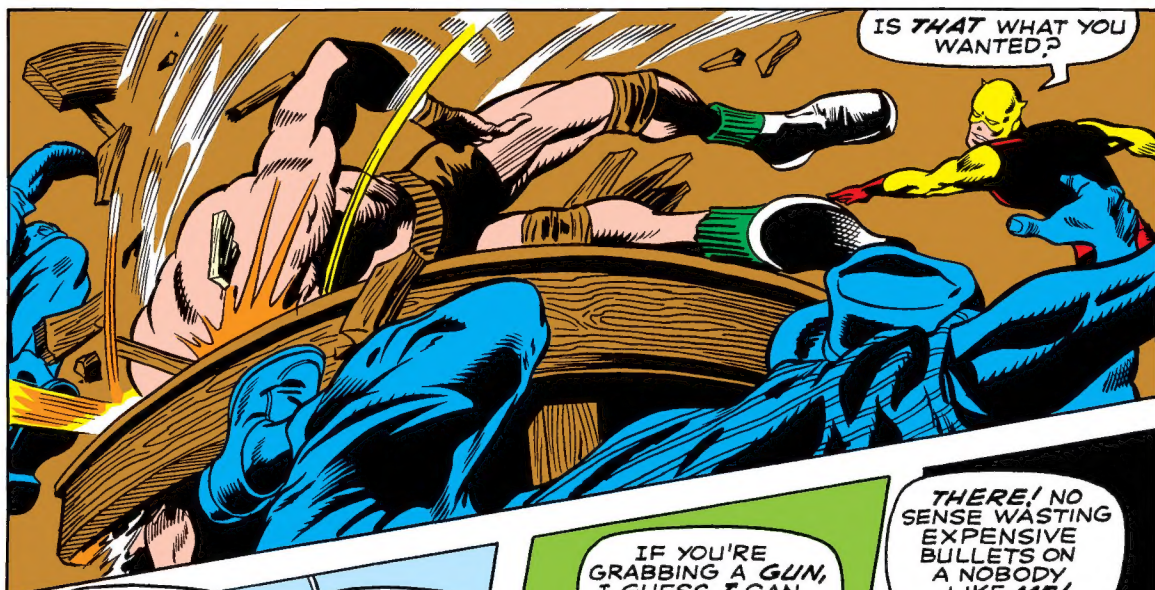
I'VE SEEN NUTTY GETUPS, BUT THAT ONE TAKES THE CAKE!

BUT LOOK AT HIS BUILD! HANG AROUND, FELLA...MAYBE THE FIXER CAN USE YOU!

WHEN I'M THRU WITH THE FIXER, HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO USE ANYONE--EVER AGAIN!







IS THAT WHAT YOU WANTED?



MISTER, YOU JUST BOUGHT YOURSELF A BIG PECK OF TROUBLE!

WAIT'LL I GRAB THAT GUN!

SORRY, PLAYMATE! YOU'LL HAVE TO MOVE LOTS FASTER THAN THAT!



IF YOU'RE GRABBING A GUN, I GUESS I CAN USE A SIMPLE LITTLE BILLY CLUB!



THERE! NO SENSE WASTING EXPENSIVE BULLETS ON A NOBODY LIKE ME!



YOU PUNK!

I'LL FIX IT SO YOU NEVER MAKE ANOTHER WISECRACK AGAIN!



"DAREDEVIL!"

"A NAME THAT WAS NEW IN THE THEN-BRIGHT WORLD OF SUPERHEROES...A NAME DESTINED TO REACH THE HEIGHTS OF GLORY, AND THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR..."

"AND A NAME MUCH OLDER THAN THE COLORFUL COSTUME I WORE...HARKING BACK TO ANOTHER SCENE...ANOTHER TIME..."

1961
1962
1963
1964
1965
1966
1967
1968
1969
1970

"THE YEAR WAS 1950... AND A PRIZEFIGHTER KNOWN AS **BATTLING MURDOCK** WAS SPEAKING TO HIS YOUNG SON **MATTHEW**... THE BOY THAT I ONCE WAS..."

BUT I DON'T WANT TO STUDY NOW, DAD!

WHY CAN'T I GO OUT AND PLAY BALL WITH THE KIDS?

I CAN STUDY LATER ON!

NO, MATT... YOU'LL DO IT NOW!

YOU'LL STUDY EVERY CHANCE YOU GET, HEAR?



I PROMISED YOUR MOTHER, BEFORE SHE DIED, THAT I WOULDN'T LET YOU GROW UP TO BE AN UNEDUCATED PUG LIKE ME!

YOU'RE GOING TO AMOUNT TO SOMETHING, MATT!

BUT I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU, DAD! I'M PROUD OF YOU! YOU'RE THE GREATEST...

DON'T SAY IT, BOY!

I'M PAST MY PRIME...I'VE GOT NO FUTURE...BUT I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN TO YOU!

YOU'RE GONNA STUDY...BECOME A LAWYER, OR A DOCTOR... YOU'LL BE SOMEBODY!

NOW, BACK TO YOUR BOOKS, SON!

OKAY, DAD...!

"AS THE YEARS ROLLED BY, I DID MY BEST TO LIVE UP TO MY FATHER'S DREAM...BECAME TOP STUDENT IN MY CLASS...ALTHOUGH MY HEART ACHED FOR THE THRILLS OF THE BASEBALL DIAMOND...THE GRIDIRON...!"

IF ONLY DAD WOULD LET ME TRY OUT FOR THE TEAM!

BUT I CAN'T GO AGAINST HIS WISHES... AFTER ALL HIS SACRIFICES...!

I'VE GOT TO BE...THE SON HE WANTS ME TO BE!

"BUT, AS I WENT MY LONELY WAY, I LEARNED THAT NO ONE CAN BE AS CRUEL AS UNTHINKING YOUTH! IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS MADE UP A NICKNAME FOR ME...A NAME I WOULD LONG REMEMBER...!"

WELL, WELL, IF IT AINT OL' DAREDEVIL HIMSELF!

HI, DAREDEVIL! YOU SURE YOU DON'T TIRE YOURSELF OUT TURNIN' ALL THOSE HEAVY PAGES IN YOUR SCHOOL BOOKS!

THEY'RE LAUGHING AT ME...THEY THINK I'M A SISSY!

"SOON AFTERWARD, AT HOME, MY ANGER BOILING WITHIN ME...I STRUCK OUT AT DAD'S PUNCHING BAG...!"

THE DAY WILL COME WHEN NO ONE WILL EVER LAUGH AT ME AGAIN...WHEN...HEY!

I...I KNOCKED THE BAG CLEAN OFF!

WHAT A **NUMBSKULL** I AM!

WHY DON'T I DO THIS EVERY DAY-- JUST TO KEEP IN SHAPE?

"IT WAS ONLY NATURAL THAT THE SON OF BATTLING MURDOCK SHOULD TAKE TO VIGOROUS TRAINING THE WAY A DUCK TAKES TO WATER! AND SO, IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED, WHILE DAD WAS OUT OF TOWN ON THE BOXING CIRCUIT..."

"BUT, NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRAINED, I NEVER FORGOT THE GOAL I HAD SET FOR MYSELF..."

MATT, I KNOW HOW **TOUGH** IT'S BEEN FOR YOU, WHILE THE OTHER KIDS WERE OUT PLAYIN'!

BUT THE DAY WILL COME WHEN YOU'LL **THANK** ME, BOY!

YOU'RE GONNA **AMOUNT** TO SOMETHING... JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER WOULD'VE WANTED YOU TO!

"YET, I LEARNED LATER THAT THERE WAS ONE PROBLEM WHICH DAD KEPT FROM ME..."

I'M TOO OLD... HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO LAND A FIGHT IN WEEKS!

BUT, I'VE GOT TO KEEP FIGHTIN'... TILL MATT GETS THRU COLLEGE!

I OWE HIM THAT!

"FINALLY, IN DESPERATION, DAD MADE A FATAL DECISION..."

SORRY, MURDOCK... BUT THE ONLY GUY WHO'LL MANAGE A **HAS-BEEN** LIKE YOU IS... **THE FIXER!**

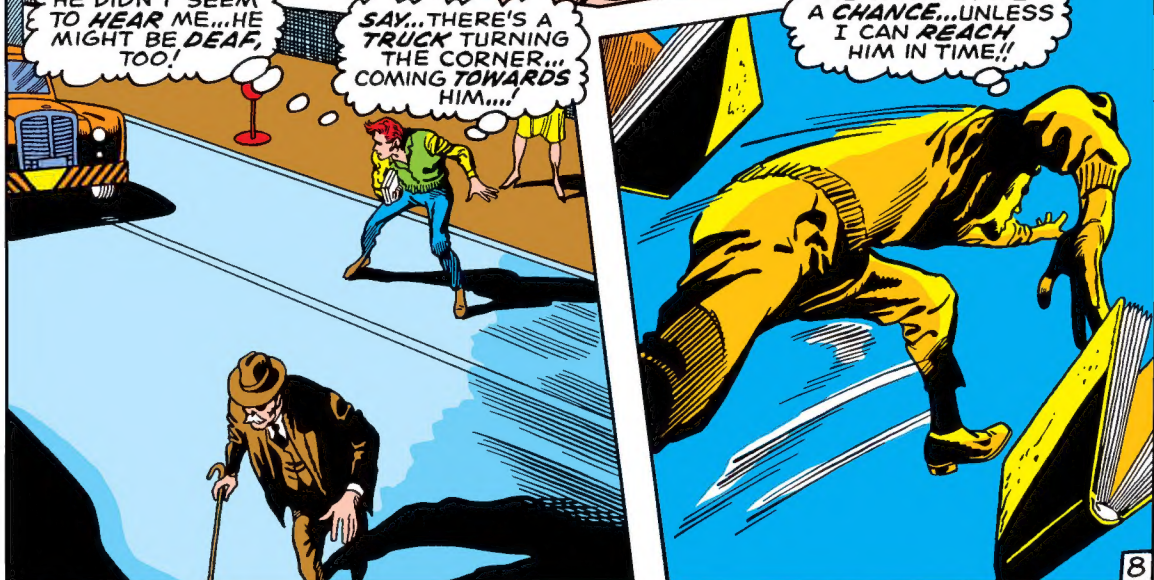
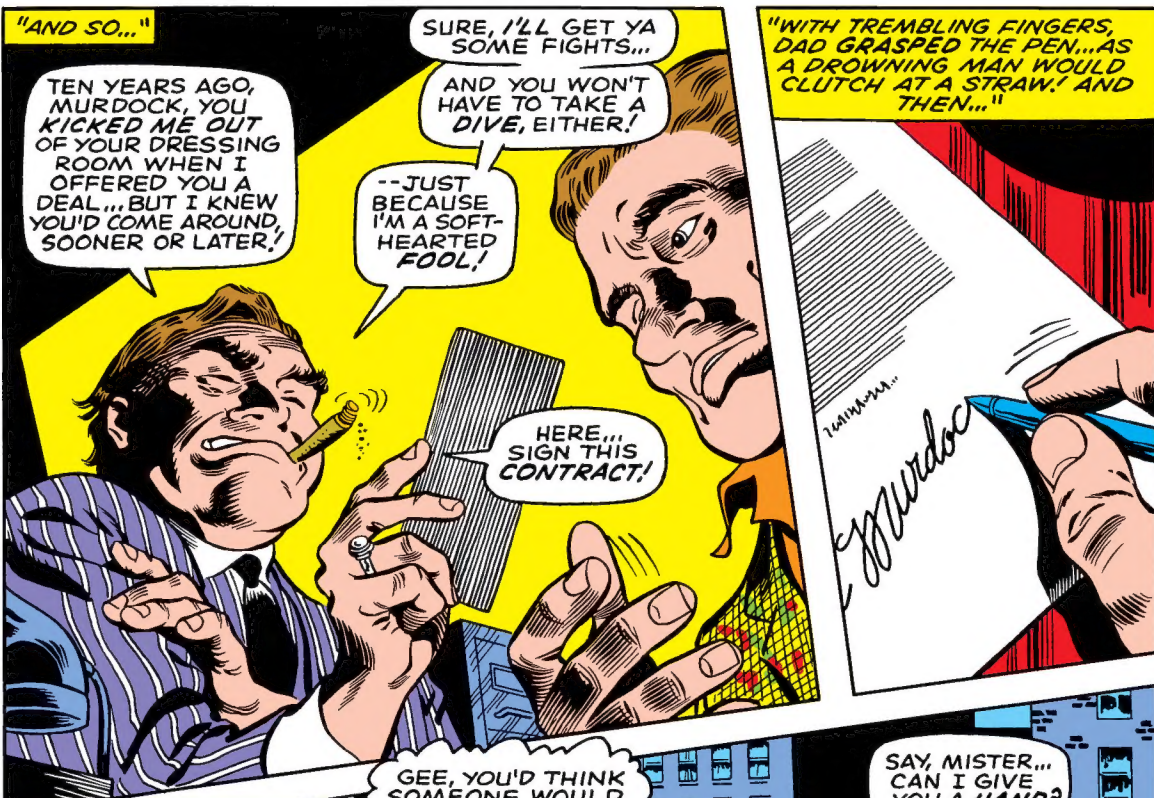
THE **FIXER!**

I ALWAYS SWORE TO **STEER CLEAR** OF A GUY WITH HIS REPUTATION!

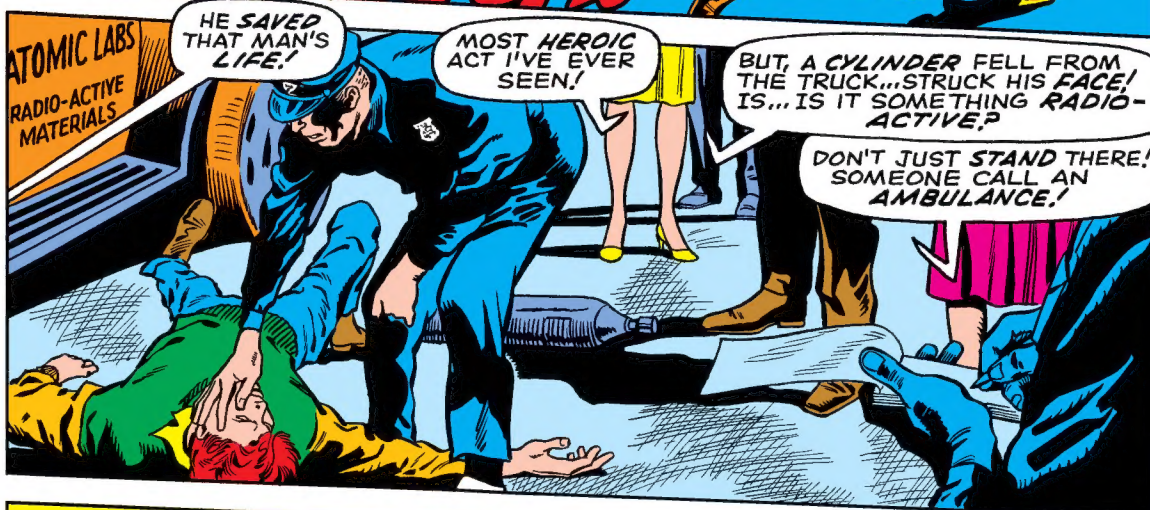
BUT NOW I'VE GOT NO CHOICE... I **HAVE** TO GET A FIGHT!

FLOYD ANDERSON

BOXING MURDOCK



"SOMEHOW...SOMEWAY...I MANAGED TO HURL THE UNSUSPECTING BLIND MAN OUT OF THE TRUCK'S PATH...BUT I WASN'T QUITE SO FORTUNATE..."

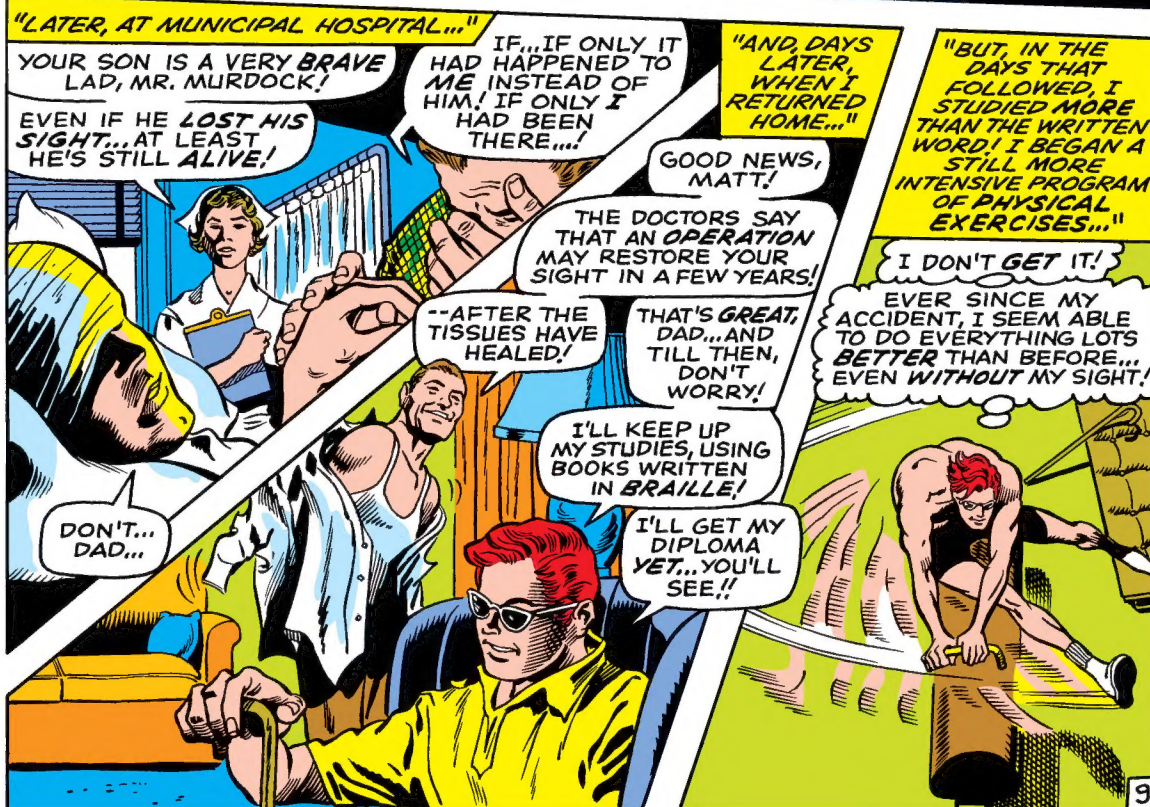


HE SAVED THAT MAN'S LIFE!

MOST HEROIC ACT I'VE EVER SEEN!

BUT, A CYLINDER FELL FROM THE TRUCK...STRUCK HIS FACE! IS... IS IT SOMETHING RADIO-ACTIVE?

DON'T JUST STAND THERE! SOMEONE CALL AN AMBULANCE!



"LATER, AT MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL..."

YOUR SON IS A VERY BRAVE LAD, MR. MURDOCK!

EVEN IF HE LOST HIS SIGHT...AT LEAST HE'S STILL ALIVE!

IF...IF ONLY IT HAD HAPPENED TO ME INSTEAD OF HIM! IF ONLY I HAD BEEN THERE...!

"AND, DAYS LATER, WHEN I RETURNED HOME..."

GOOD NEWS, MATT!

THE DOCTORS SAY THAT AN OPERATION MAY RESTORE YOUR SIGHT IN A FEW YEARS!

--AFTER THE TISSUES HAVE HEALED!

THAT'S GREAT, DAD...AND TILL THEN, DON'T WORRY!

I'LL KEEP UP MY STUDIES, USING BOOKS WRITTEN IN BRAILLE!

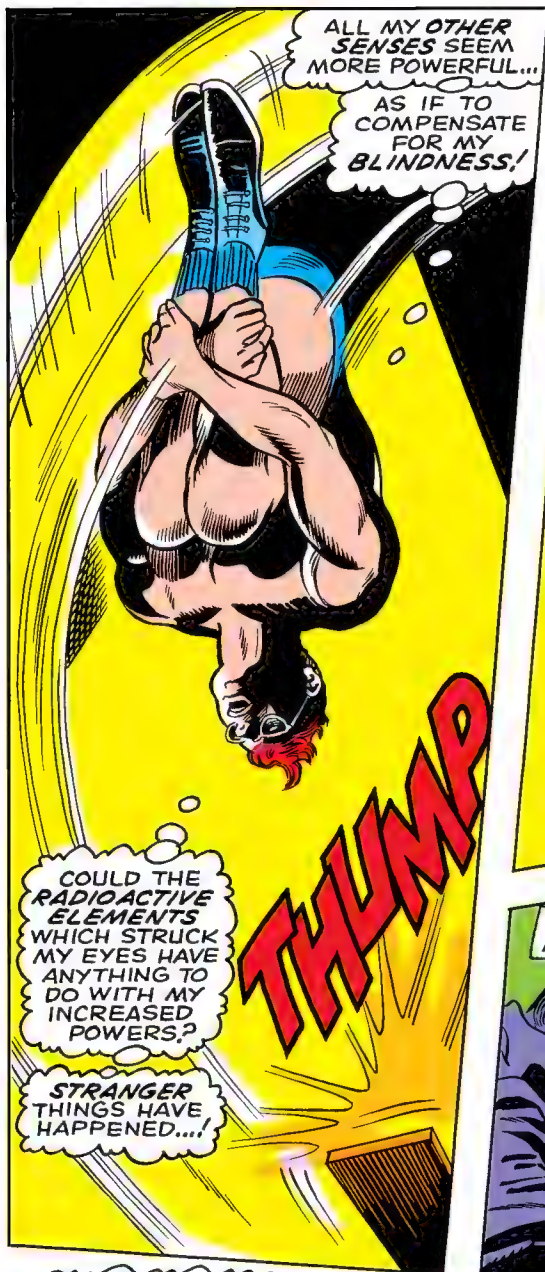
I'LL GET MY DIPLOMA YET...YOU'LL SEE!!

"BUT, IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, I STUDIED MORE THAN THE WRITTEN WORD! I BEGAN A STILL MORE INTENSIVE PROGRAM OF PHYSICAL EXERCISES..."

I DON'T GET IT!

EVER SINCE MY ACCIDENT, I SEEM ABLE TO DO EVERYTHING LOTS BETTER THAN BEFORE... EVEN WITHOUT MY SIGHT!

DON'T... DAD...



ALL MY OTHER SENSES SEEM MORE POWERFUL...

AS IF TO COMPENSATE FOR MY BLINDNESS!

COULD THE RADIOACTIVE ELEMENTS WHICH STRUCK MY EYES HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH MY INCREASED POWERS?

STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED...!

"BUT, I WAS DESTINED NEVER TO KNOW THE PRECISE NATURE OR CAUSE OF MY NEWFOUND ABILITIES... IN COLLEGE, IT WAS HARD ENOUGH JUST TO KEEP THEM A SECRET FROM MY ROOM-MATE, FOGGY NELSON..."

MATT, YOU OL' HOUND DOG, HOW DO YOU DO IT?

I STUDY LIKE A DEMON--BUT YOU JUST BREEZE THRU THE COURSES WITH ALL THE TOP GRADES!

MY DAD DESERVES THE CREDIT, FOGGY!

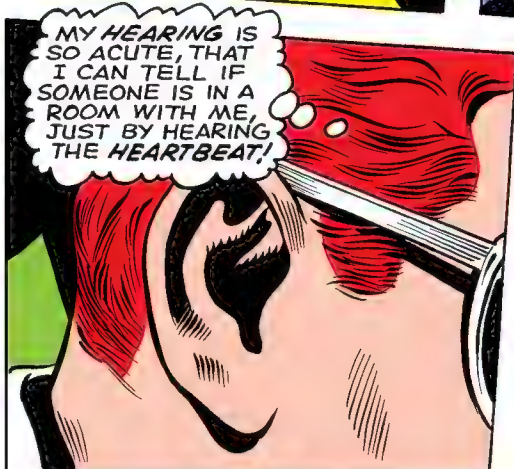
IT ALL SEEMS TO COME EASY!

AND I DON'T MEAN JUST STUDYING!



EVERY THING SEEMS EASY FOR ME NOW!

MY SENSES ARE RAZOR SHARP!

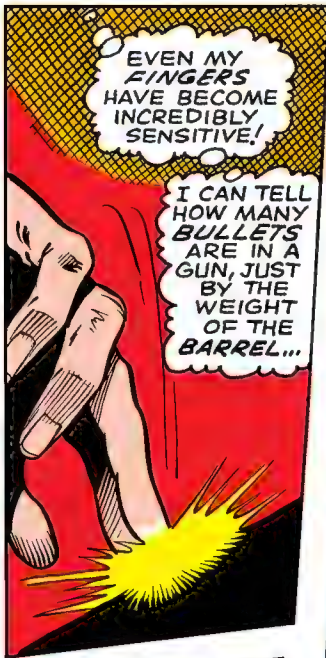


MY HEARING IS SO ACUTE, THAT I CAN TELL IF SOMEONE IS IN A ROOM WITH ME, JUST BY HEARING THE HEARTBEAT!



AND, I NEVER FORGET AN ODOR ONCE I SMELL IT!

I COULD RECOGNIZE ANY GIRL BY HER PERFUME...OR ANY MAN BY HIS HAIR TONIC!



EVEN MY FINGERS HAVE BECOME INCREDIBLY SENSITIVE!

I CAN TELL HOW MANY BULLETS ARE IN A GUN, JUST BY THE WEIGHT OF THE BARREL...



...WHILE MY SENSE OF TASTE TELLS ME HOW MANY GRAINS OF SALT ARE ON A PIECE OF PRETZEL!

"BUT, MOST IMPORTANT WAS A SORT OF BUILT-IN RADAR...WHICH CAUSED A STRANGE TINGLING SENSATION WHEN I APPROACHED ANY SOLID OBSTACLE..."

SAY, SON...WANT ANY HELP CROSSIN' THE STREET,?

NO, THANKS... I CAN MAKE IT!



"MEANWHILE, MY DAD'S PRIZEFIGHTING CAREER WAS TAKING A SURPRISING TURN..."

MADISON SQUARE KID MURDOCK VS PEDRO GONZALEZ

THURS. OCT.
PEDRO GONZALEZ
WILL FIGHT
MURDOCK

LITTLE DOES HE SUSPECT THAT I CAN CROSS MORE SAFELY THAN HE CAN...

FOR I HAVE EVERY ONE OF MY REMAINING SENSES WORKING AT PEAK CAPACITY!

MURDOCK K.O.
SIMS IN 9TH

HERE'S YOUR DOUGH, MURDOCK!

KEEP IT UP AND YOU MAY BE CHAMP SOMEDAY!

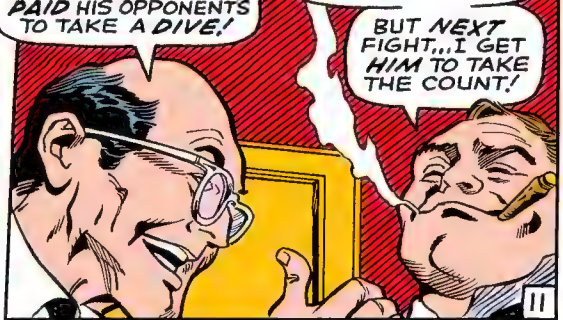
IT...IT SEEMS LIKE SOME KIND'A MIRACLE, FIXER!

"BUT, AFTER DAD LEFT..."

WAIT'LL THE OLD FOOL FINDS YOU PAID HIS OPPONENTS TO TAKE A DIVE!

SURE! I DID IT TO GIVE MURDOCK A BUILD-UP!

BUT NEXT FIGHT...I GET HIM TO TAKE THE COUNT!



"AND, A FEW DAYS BEFORE DAD'S LATEST FIGHT..."

FOOTSTEPS!

I CAN TELL BY THE WEIGHT...THE DISTANCE BETWEEN EACH...IT'S FOGGY NELSON!

HEY, MATT... WAIT UP!

I WANNA READ YOU THE SPORTS HEADLINE ABOUT YOUR DAD!

FOGGY DOESN'T KNOW I "READ" THE HEAD-LINE BEFORE...JUST BY RUNNING MY FINGER OVER THE PAGE AND FEELING THE IMPRESSION OF THE INK!

HE'S FIGHTING DYNAMITE DAVIS TOMORROW NIGHT!

WANNA GO?

I'D LIKE TO!

I'VE ALREADY GOT A TICKET FOR EACH OF US, FOGGY!

"AND SO, THE NEXT NIGHT..."

...AND IN THIS CORNER, THE MIDDLE-AGED SENSATION... **BATTLING MURDOCK!!**

THE FIXER SAID I HAVE TO TAKE A DIVE IN THE FIRST ROUND OF THIS FIGHT!

BUT... MY BOY'S HERE TONIGHT...!

"THEN, AS I FOLLOWED THE FIGHT PERFECTLY... HEARING THE SOUND OF EACH BLOW, EACH FOOTSTEP..."

THIS IS MY ONE CHANCE TO MAKE MY SON PROUD OF ME...AND I'M NOT GONNA FAIL HIM!

I'M GONNA WIN, DO YA HEAR--

I'M GONNA WIN!

THE WINNAH... **BATTLING MURDOCK!**

"BUT, SHORTLY AFTERWARD, WHEN DAD LEFT THE GYM..."

NO MATTER WHAT THE FIXER DOES, I WON'T CARE!

NOTHING CAN EVER CHANGE THAT NOW!

MY SON IS PROUD OF ME!

BACK ENTRANCE

YOU'VE GOTTA SNAP OUT OF IT, MATT... LIKE YOUR DAD WOULD'VE WANTED!

WE'LL BE GRADUATING SOON... AND I WANT YOU TO JOIN ME, MATT... AS MY PARTNER!

"SUDDENLY, THE SHARP, EXPLOSIVE SOUND OF A GUN SHOT DESTROYED THE SILENCE OF NIGHT..."

KRAK!

"...AND ENDED ONE MAN'S REVERIE... FOREVER!"

"THE VERY NEXT DAY, IN NEW YORK..."

WE'RE IN BUSINESS, MATT!

MY NAME IS KAREN PAGE, MR. MURDOCK!

MEET THE SECRETARY I HIRED US!

I HOPE YOU'LL BE PLEASED WITH ME!

"FINALLY, THE DAY ARRIVED... THE DAY THAT DAD HAD FOUGHT... HAD DIED FOR..."

MATTHEW MURDOCK, I'M ESPECIALLY PROUD OF YOU!

YOU HAVE PROVEN THAT AN ALERT MIND AND A STRONG WILL CAN CONQUER ANY OBSTACLES!

THANK YOU, SIR!

NELSON AND

HER VOICE IS... LIKE MUSIC...

"LATER THAT NIGHT, IN MY APARTMENT..."

I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON MY LAW WORK...

UNTIL DAD'S MURDERER IS FINALLY BROUGHT TO JUSTICE!

BUT, I ONCE PROMISED DAD I'D USE MY HEAD...NOT MY MUSCLES!

WAIT-- I HAVE IT!

I'LL SEE TO IT THAT MATT MURDOCK NEVER RESORTS TO FORCE...

BUT SOMEBODY ELSE WILL....!

SOMEBODY TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM MATT MURDOCK!

ALL I NEED ARE SOME OLD SHIRTS WHICH I CAN STITCH TOGETHER....!

"THUS, THRU THE LONG NIGHT I LABORED... MY DELICATE TOUCH SERVING ME WELL... UNTIL, WITH THE DAWN, WAS BORN--"

"--DAREDEVIL!"

"...AND, IN A MOMENT OF INSPIRATION, I MOLDED AND MANIPULATED MY BLIND MAN'S CANE--"

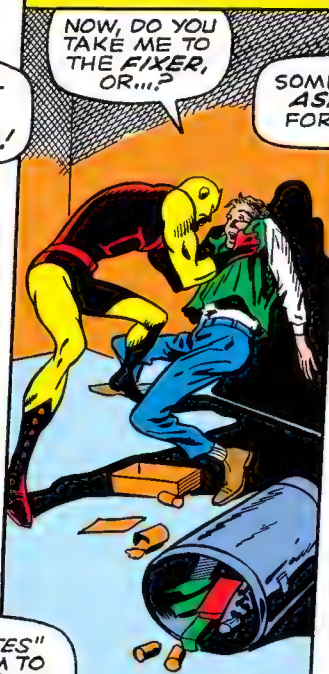
"...INTO THE PERFECT ALL-PURPOSE WEAPON!"

THE NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS CALLED ME **DAREDEVIL**... BUT THEY MEANT IT AS AN **INSULT!** I'LL MAKE THAT NICKNAME **TRUER** THAN THEY EVER SUSPECTED...



--AND I'LL START IN THE **MORNING!**

"...WHICH WAS HOW THE **MAN WITHOUT FEAR** FOUND HIMSELF WHERE MY MEMORIES BEGAN... IN **FOGWELL'S GYM**..."



NOW, DO YOU TAKE ME TO THE **FIXER**, OR...?

SOMEBODY **ASKIN'** FOR ME?

WHAT DO YA **WANT**, MASKED MAN?

TALK UP...BEFORE MY BOYS **LEAN** ON YA A LITTLE!



HEY, BOSS... DIG THE **GETUP** ON THAT CLOWN!

MY "**ASSOCIATES**" DON'T SEEM TO LIKE YOUR **LOOKS**, MISTER!

YOU BETTER TALK **FAST!**

FROM THE HEAVY TONE OF HIS VOICE, HE'S **BEEFY**... ROUGH!

AND I HEAR TWO OTHER **NEW-COMERS** BREATHING...

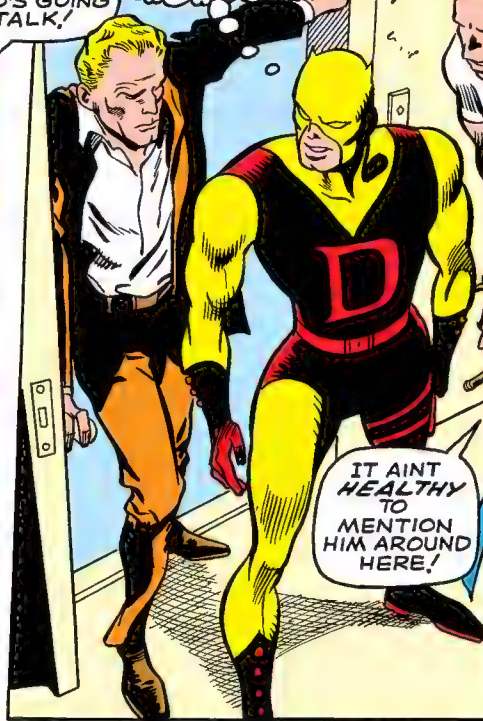
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT **ARRANGEMENT** YOU HAD WITH **BATTLING MURDOCK!**

BOXING

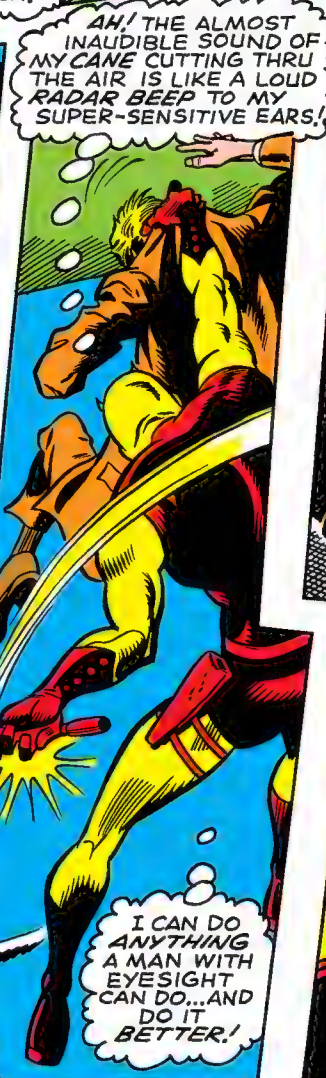
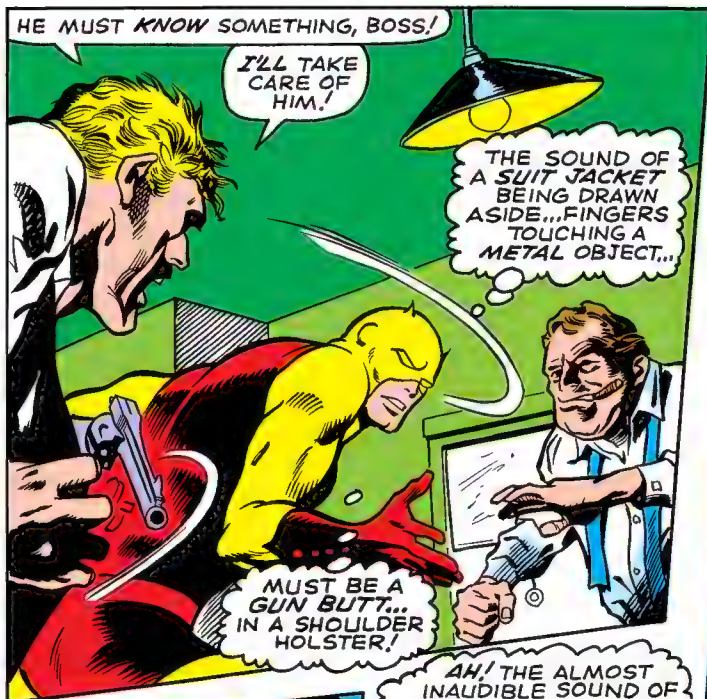
BATTLING MURDOCK!?

CORRECTION, FIXER!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO TALK!



IT AIN'T **HEALTHY** TO MENTION HIM AROUND HERE!





HE KNOWS TOO MUCH--MIGHT EVEN KNOW I'M THE MURDERER!

CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES!

IT WAS ME--SLADE!

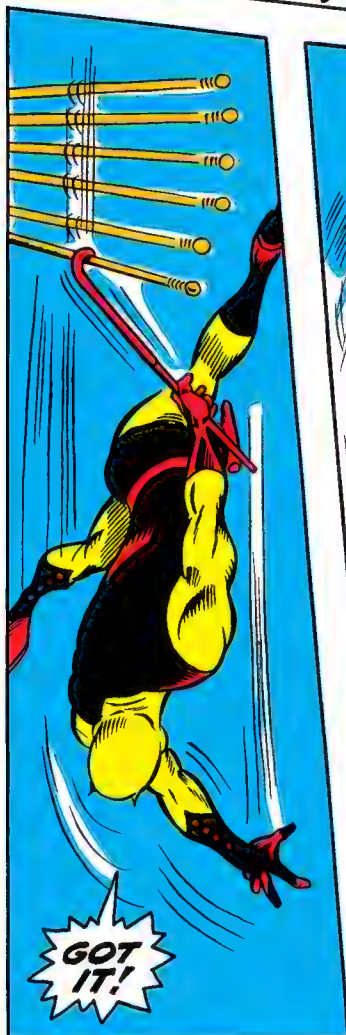


BUT YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!



I WAS TOO INTENT ON LISTENING TO THE FIXER'S PULSE RATE... TO LEARN IF HE WAS THE MURDERER!

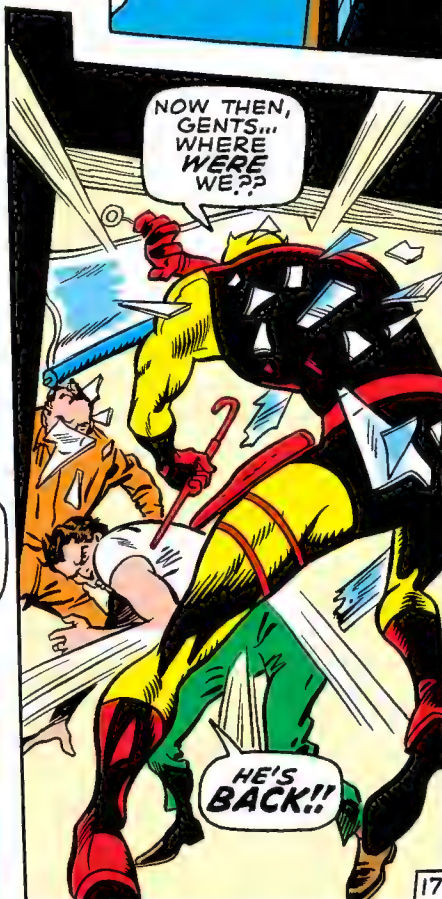
NOW, THAT FLAGPOLE... IS MY ONE CHANCE...!



GOT IT!

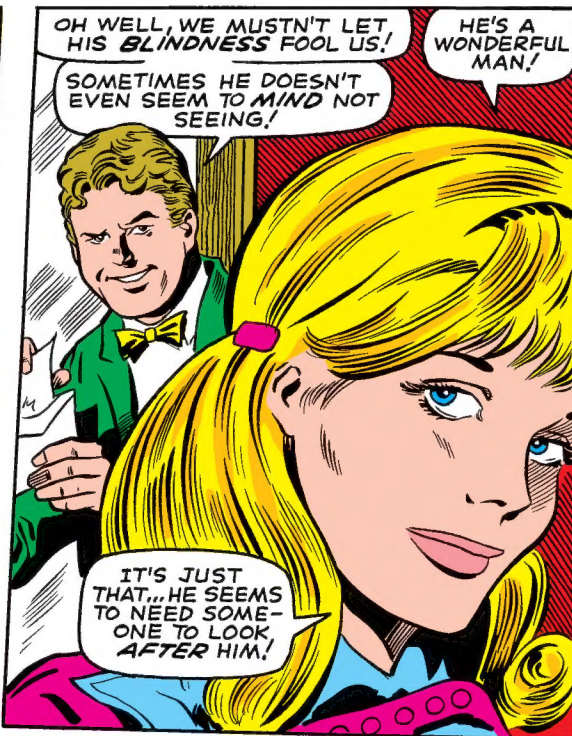
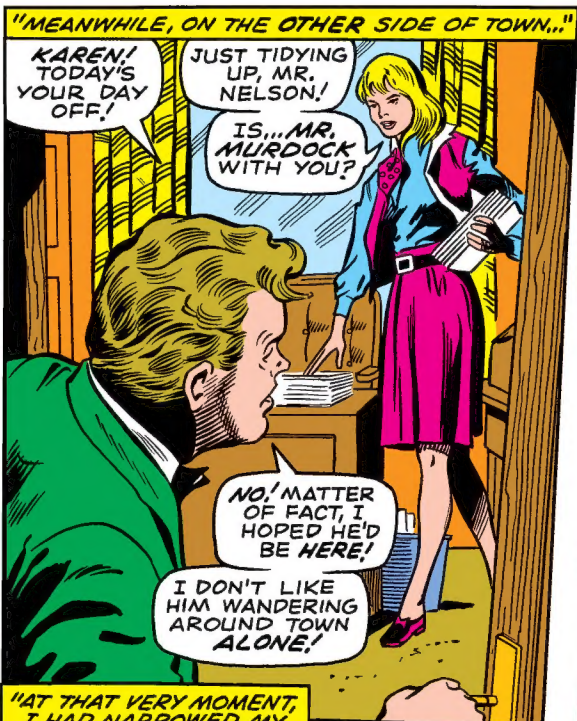


FROM HERE ON IN, IT'S ALL A BREEZE!



NOW THEN, GENTS... WHERE WERE WE??

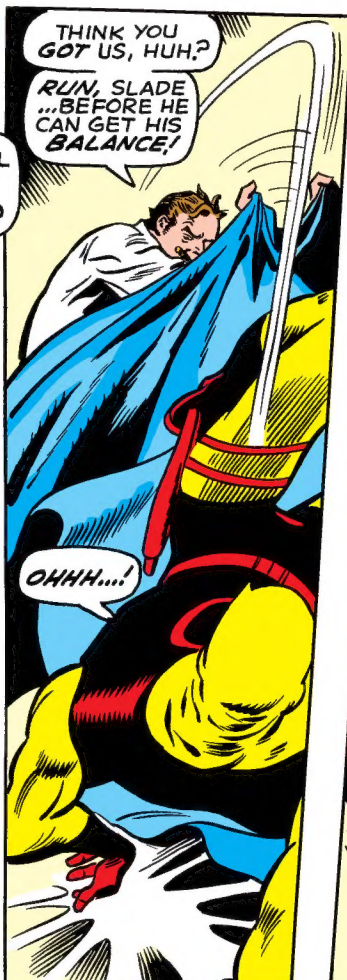
HE'S BACK!!

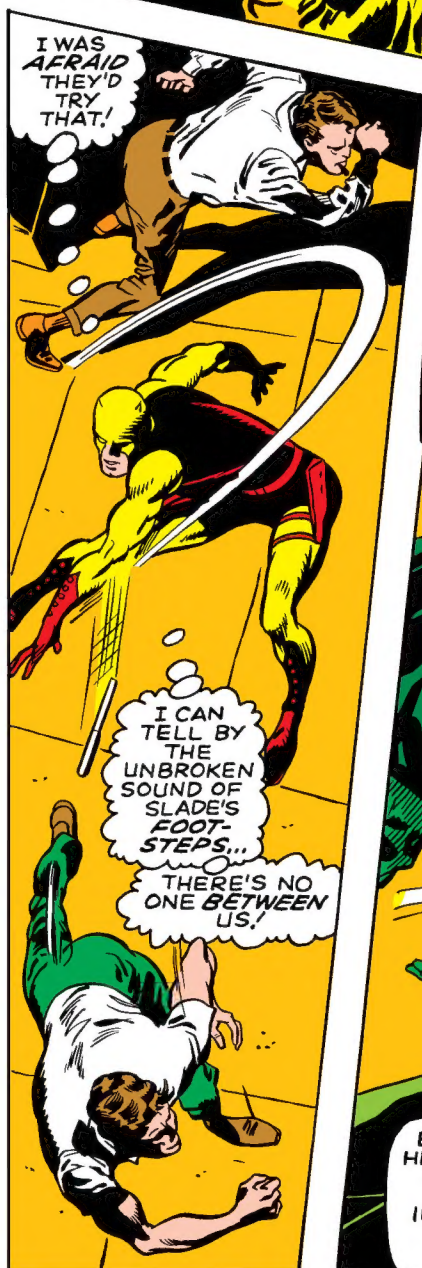
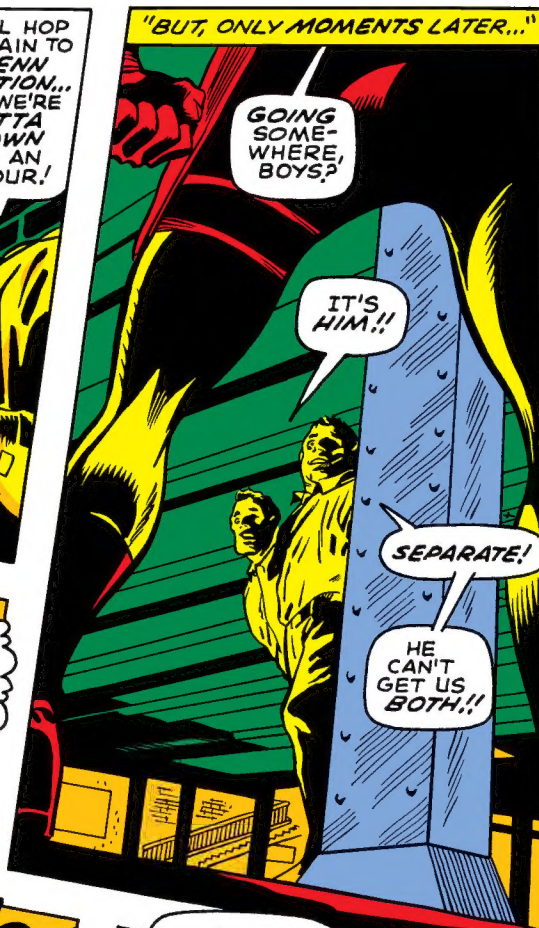


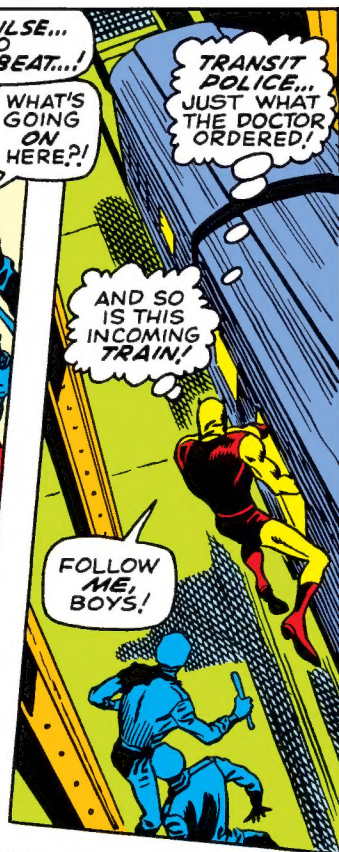
"AT THAT VERY MOMENT,
I HAD NARROWED MY
OPPOSITION DOWN TO
THE FIXER AND ONE
CRONY..."

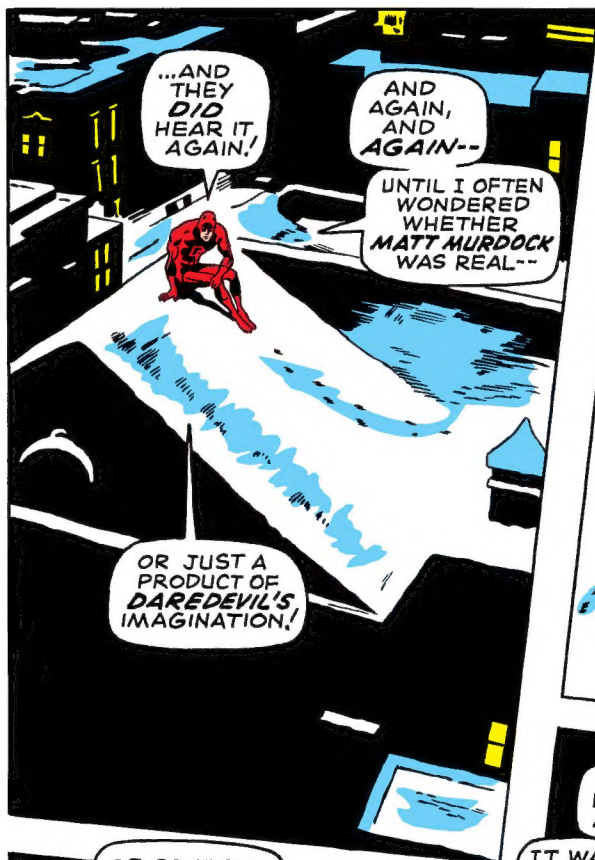
OKAY, SO YOU KNOW
THAT I GAVE THE
ORDER...AND SLADE DID
THE SHOOTING!

WHAT GOOD'LL
IT DO YOU
WITHOUT
EVIDENCE?









...AND THEY **DID** HEAR IT, AGAIN!

AND AGAIN, AND AGAIN--

UNTIL I OFTEN WONDERED WHETHER **MATT MURDOCK** WAS REAL--

OR JUST A PRODUCT OF **DAREDEVIL'S** IMAGINATION!



BUT, THAT HARDLY HELPS ME NOW--

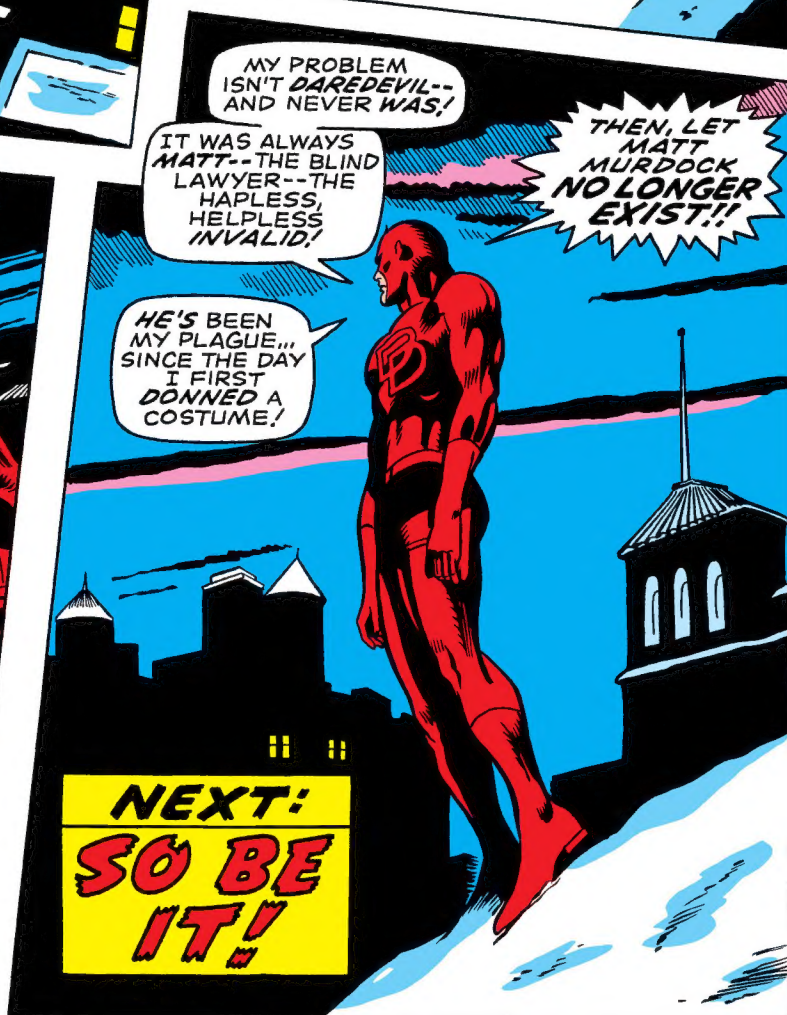
WITH **STARR SAXON** ON THE LOOSE, **MENACING** MY DUAL IDENTITY!

OR... **DOES** IT?



OF COURSE-- **THAT'S** MY ANSWER!

IT'S BEEN STARING ME IN THE **FACE**, ALL ALONG!



MY PROBLEM ISN'T **DAREDEVIL--** AND NEVER WAS!

IT WAS ALWAYS **MATT--** THE BLIND LAWYER-- THE HAPLESS, HELPLESS **INVALID!**

HE'S BEEN MY PLAGUE... SINCE THE DAY I FIRST **DONNED** A COSTUME!

THEN, LET **MATT MURDOCK** NO LONGER **EXIST!!**

NEXT:
SO BE
IT!